GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:738
ANSWERED ON:12.07.2004
DRY FARMING
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to popularise dry farming in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the work undertake by the Government in the Uttar Pradesh in this regard alongwith the achievement made; and

(d) the assistance and facilities being contemplated by the Government to be provided in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): The term dryland farming is generally applied to low (up to 750 mm) and medium (750- 1150mm) annual rainfall conditions. The Government have taken up National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA) since 1990-91 to conserve, develop, manage and utilize the natural resources in rainfed areas to enhance agricultural productivity and production in a sustainable manner throughout the country. The project is being implemented in 28 States and two union territories of the country during the X Plan. Up to 9th Plan, seven million ha. of rainfed areas has been developed at an expenditure of Rs.1878 crores.

Further, to promote dry farming technologies, 103 sub projects have been taken up by Indian Council of Agricultural Research under national Agricultural Technology Project since 1999 with an outlay of Rs.103 crores. The primary objectives of these sub projects is for testing the available rainfed farming technologies on farmers` field and popularizing them through organizing farmers` awareness programmes.

(c): In Uttar Pradesh, NWDPRA has been implemented since 1990-91. Up to 9th Plan an area of 5.45 lakhs ha. was developed with an expenditure of Rs.178.14 crores. The project is continued during 10th Plan in 400 watersheds lying in 32 districts of the state. The physical and financial achievements for the first two years of the 10th Plan are 36695 ha. and Rs.20.7 crores respectively.

In 10th Plan, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has earmarked a sum of Rs.5.26 crores to three research centers in Uttar Pradesh for implementing All India coordinated Research Project for Dry Land Agriculture.

(d): The following activities are being supported under NWDPRA:

1. Soil and water conservation measures/structures.

2. Testing and demonstration of new technologies.

3. Revolving fund for proven technologies to users` groups.

4. Revolving fund for livelihood support to self-help groups.